

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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May 21, 1999

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TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director
Jaime C. Kooser, Federal Programs and Water Quality Manager
Cy R. Oggins, Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agreement with California Resources Agency to review implementation of the Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP) in the City of Watsonville and conduct outreach to additional small coastal cities on MURP ¹

1.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Resources Agency, under which the Commission would receive \$18,000 to provide technical assistance related to implementation of the Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP). Staff responsibilities, described under "Scope of Work" below, include reviewing implementation of the MURP in the City of Watsonville, developing an addendum to the MURP Guidebook based on Watsonville's experience, and conducting outreach to small coastal cities.

Approval of this agreement by the Commission will enable staff, in partnership with the City of Watsonville and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), to conduct activities consistent with the Commission's overall plan for enhancing the coastal program's management of polluted runoff. Implementation of the MURP will assist the City in meeting the goals of its Local Coastal Program (LCP) related to erosion and runoff control, will allow the city to address water quality problems in adjacent wetlands, and will protect Sanctuary resources downstream. Distribution and use of the MURP offers small cities an opportunity to cost-effectively implement urban runoff control programs that build on the experiences of other small cities.

2.0 MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Commission approval of the Agreement requires the following motion:

I hereby move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the California Resources Agency to receive \$18,000 to undertake activities as recommended by the staff to provide technical assistance related to implementation of the Model Urban Runoff Program.

The staff recommends a "yes" vote on the foregoing motion.

¹ MURP is a how-to-guide for local governments to develop, finance, and implement a comprehensive program to address polluted runoff in urban areas.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

Background

A priority objective of California's water quality and resources agencies is to prevent and control polluted runoff, also known as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, as a means to maintain clean rivers, wetlands, and ocean waters. Runoff from urban areas is a significant source of polluted runoff, and small cities (less than 100,000 in population) must develop comprehensive means to address urban pollutants as specified in Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program and the State's NPS Program activities pursuant to the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA).

The MURP is a how-to-guide to assist small municipalities in developing urban runoff control programs that was developed by the Cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz, Coastal Commission, MBNMS, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde Consultants, and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The City of Monterey and the City of Santa Cruz have initiated implementation of the program over the past year. Additional work by the City of Watsonville will provide an opportunity to address urban runoff problems within that city, and will improve upon the MURP based on the experiences of a city with a very different type of land use, development pressure, economics, and ethnic diversity.

Work to be conducted pursuant to proposed agreement

Under this grant proposal, the Commission staff will work with the City of Watsonville and the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program in the City's development of an urban runoff control program using the MURP. Implementation of the MURP will greatly assist the City in meeting the goals of its Local Coastal Program. Specifically, the MURP will help address the following LCP criteria: control of erosion from any major construction and grading, and control of runoff from impervious services and areas subject to vehicular traffic to prevent and minimize erosion and water quality degradation. Implementation will also allow the City to directly address water quality problems in adjacent wetlands and protect the resources of the MBNMS. The project will be closely linked with the community of Watsonville through extensive outreach and education on urban runoff issues.

Specific staff tasks include the following. Staff will review the City of Watsonville's experiences in implementing the MURP. In coordination with the Central Coast RWQCB, staff will revise and add to the MURP Guide as needed. At the end of the grant period, the Commission staff will produce hard-copy versions of the MURP document and make the document available for distribution to other coastal municipalities. Staff will also explore producing a CD-ROM of the document for distribution and placing the MURP document on the Internet. The latter approaches will increase the Commission's ability to distribute the document to greater numbers of cities Statewide, and could also provide a means for the state to ensure that municipalities are receiving the most up-to-date techniques and practices to control urban runoff.